

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: September 21, 2000

Subject: Monroe Township Groundwater Contamination Site, Williamstown,
Gloucester County, New Jersey

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POLREP NO.: 6 Final (Covers period from 06/02/00 to 09/21/00)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	MQ
Delivery Order Number:	003 (ERRS Contract No. 68-S2-99-07)
Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
CERCLIS Number:	NJD98079699
Action Memo Status:	Action Memo approved December 6, 1999
Start Date:	September 21, 1999
Demobilization Date:	September 21, 2000
Completion Date:	September 21, 2000

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA incident category: Area-Wide Groundwater Contamination

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Site is located in the town of Williamstown, in the Township of Monroe, and consists of properties which use private wells as a source of potable water. The affected properties are located in three areas identified as the Winslow Road Area (including properties on Winslow Road and Maple Street); the Tuckahoe Road Area (consisting of properties on Tuckahoe Road, Sykes Lane and Glassboro Road) and the Black Horse Pike Area (including properties on Black Horse Pike).

2. Description of Threat

EPA became aware of groundwater contamination of private wells in Monroe Township while evaluating groundwater contamination associated with the Township's municipal supply wells. During EPA's evaluation of these municipal wells, the Agency obtained groundwater sampling data from the Gloucester County Health Department (GCHD), which indicated that certain private wells in the Township were contaminated with PCE. In addition, based on discussions with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), EPA became aware of groundwater contamination problems in the Township that were associated with Mercury.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

In cooperation with both the NJDEP and the GCHD, EPA selected three areas of Monroe in which to perform tap water sampling of private wells. This sampling was performed in order to assess whether the site could be eligible for a removal action, and to determine whether the Site should be proposed for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). These areas were determined based on the locations of previously known elevated concentrations of PCE, and included properties in the areas of the Black Horse Pike, Winslow Road, and the area located in the vicinity of the intersection of Tuckahoe Road with Glassboro Road. The tap water sampling event was performed in July 1999, with approximately 100 homes being sampled. Of these 100 homes, it was found that 29 properties exceeded the federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and removal action levels (RALs) for PCE, Benzene, Mercury, Thallium, Copper, and Lead.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

As described above, EPA determined that there were 29 properties at which the tap water exceeded the RALs and MCLs for PCE, Benzene, Mercury, Thallium, Copper, and Lead. A summary of these exceedances is provided in the following table:

Monroe Township Groundwater Contamination Site

MAXIMUM CONCENTRATIONS OF CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN RESIDENTIAL WELLS (ppb)		EPA RAL (ppb)	EPA MCL (ppb)
PCE	1,500	70	5
Benzene	470	100	5
Mercury	19.9	10	2
Copper	3,260	1,300	TT*
Lead	62.6	30	TT*
Thallium	4.0	2	2

* TT - Treatment Technique, as per the Safe Drinking Water Act.

2. Removal Actions to Date

EPA has discontinued providing bottled water to the homeowners of affected homes. The EPA's Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor (WRSI&E) obtained the services of Shockey's Water Treatment System Company to service Point Of Entry Treatment Systems (POETs) at the impacted residences. The treatment system at 3331 South Black Horse Pike was serviced on June 29, 2000. The treatment systems at 607 Winslow Road, 3172 SBHP, 3042 SBHP, 2998 SBHP, 616 Winslow Road and 3524 SBHP were serviced on on July 20, 2000.

WRSI&E also collected samples from the residences which had POET treatment systems installed. These samples were collected on June 2, July 5, August 10, August 31 and September 6, 2000.

Additionally, EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor completed sampling activities at 3331 South Black Horse Pike on June 2, 2000. This sample was analyzed for lead. The investigation indicated that the lead is coming from the plumbing and not groundwater.

On June 2, 2000, START resampled the groundwater from 3331 SBHP for lead. WRS obtained samples at this residence for pH and mercury.

On July 5, 2000, WRS collected groundwater samples for pH and mercury analysis from the residences at 3331 South Black Horse Pike, 2833 SBHP, 2779 SBHP, and 3799 SBHP.

On August 10, 2000, Shockey's Pure Water Systems, WRS and RST trialed a new ion exchange resin to assist in the mercury removal. Samples were taken prior to treatment and after KDF unit. The residences where this resin was trialed were 3331 SBHP and 2833 SBHP.

On August 28, 2000, new ion exchange resin tanks were installed at 3331 SBHP and 2833 SBHP.

On August 31, 2000, samples were taken at 3331 SBHP for pH and mercury. The new resin system has added a sample port. Ports 1 and 5 were sampled for pH and mercury and port 2,3,4 were sampled for mercury. The sampling results indicate that drinking water standards are met and homeowners were notified via letter.

On September 6, 2000, EPA, WRS and RST arrived at 2833 SBHP for the purpose of getting samples to check on the status of the new system. The homeowner denied us access to the house for collecting samples and only allowed a sample to be taken at an outside spigot. This sample indicated the pH was 9.5 and the system needed to be serviced. The homeowner denied access to EPA's contractors WRS and Shockey's for servicing the system. EPA sent a letter to homeowner notifying them regarding the matter concerning the malfunctioning system and its need to be serviced. No response was received.

3. Enforcement

No Federal enforcement action is in progress at this time. Should a responsible party or parties be identified and be willing to undertake a timely and appropriate removal action, then EPA will evaluate its options with regard to enforcement.

B. Planned Removal Activities

The planned removal activities consist of ensuring that the POET treatment systems are operating properly and that all residences with treatment systems are aware that a spill fund form must be completed and returned so that the NJDEP can assume the maintenance of them. NJDEP has assumed the responsibility for operations and maintenance of the POETS as of September, 2000.

C. Next Steps

The next activities include turning the systems maintenance over to NJDEP for servicing. Operations and maintenance of the systems will be performed by NJDEP.

D. Key Issues

There were no key issues during the reporting period covered by this Pollution Report.

V. COST INFORMATION (to 09/21/00)

	AMOUNT BUDGETED	COSTS TO DATE (rounded)	AMOUNT REMAINING
ERRS costs	\$ 165,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 65,000
EPA costs	\$ 82,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 9,000
(Including RST).			
Total	\$ 247,000	\$ 173,000	\$ 74,000

Percent of the total project ceiling - 70 %

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSCs at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSAL OF WASTES

This section is not applicable for the period addressed by this Pollution Report.